

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods for using modulating agents to enhance or inhibit cadherin-mediated cell adhesion in a variety of *in vivo* and *in vitro* contexts are provided. In particular, the modulating agents may be used in the therapy of multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases. The modulating agents comprise at least one cadherin cell adhesion recognition sequence (HAV) or an antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a cadherin cell adhesion recognition sequence. Modulating agents may additionally comprise one or more cell adhesion recognition sequences recognized by other adhesion molecules. Such modulating agents may, but need not, be linked to a targeting agent, drug and/or support material.

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